



# GF&RD

## VOLUNTEER

# TIMES

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**CERT****Fire Corps****Community Assistance**

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## Kim's Corner:

Summer officially starts in June and what better way to kick off the season then with service! We have a summer filled with volunteer service opportunities. June is a great month to find inspiration and one of the reasons I look forward to attending the National Conference on Volunteering and Service. I am excited to discover the new trends of services, new projects and much more. It's bound to be filled with adventurous moments all of which I look forward to sharing with you at our Annual Meeting. Remember to log in online to register for the meeting of the year!

This is the meeting everyone will be talking about!

Your volunteer credentials represent measurable accomplishments and most importantly bring you credibility. It's time to begin preparing for renewing your credentials. You may begin by reviewing your logbook, are all your service hours entered and have you completed your required supplemental trainings? Over the next week you will receive additional details and documents via email to complete for your renewal process. I look forward of another year of adventures, service opportunities and making a difference in Gilbert with each of you!



Today is Your Day to Shine!





**Wishing these volunteers an extraordinary month as they celebrate a birthday in May and June:**

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Nany Briggs

Vance Carroll

Ann Godlesky

Pauline Kupper

Rick Oller

Dawn Sauer

Karen Wolf

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Sharon Judy

Joe Nuttall

James Ortiz

Sarah Papic

Shawn Patterson

Christina Priest

Shawna Stea

# REFLECTIONS

There are times in our lives when a certain statement, magazine article, news story or in today's world an e-mail that causes us to **reflect** back on some of the great times and happenings in our lives. We have a chance to relive those great moments.

Such was a statement made in e-mail from Jeff Regan; from which I quote:

"When I was a boy, I was encouraged to get dirty.

Whether it was helping around the farm or horsing around with my friends, coming home filthy meant one of two things:

1. I was a big help to my dad

2. Or I just had one heck of a good time

It wasn't unusual to come home with bugs in a jar or a crawfish in my pocket from the local creek...

"Just don't track anything in the house!"

There's something primal about digging in the dirt. As I **reflect** back and remember digging our own swimming hole in the back yard and gettin' really dirty it brings a smile to my soul.

Hope this **reflection** did to yours. ~ Written By: Joe Nutall, CERT Volunteer



## **BADGE #57 IS RETIRING 22 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE**

Retirement Ceremony - Station #4

Monday, June 4, 2018

0645

Well Wishes - Station #4

Sunday, June 3, 2018

ALL Shift



## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST GF&RD VOLUNTEERS

Heather Balch

Mike Cooke

Kathy Deaver

Cristen Gochoco

Eddie Jaidi

Amy Thomas

Mike Slesar

Lisa Winghart

## Watch Your Six

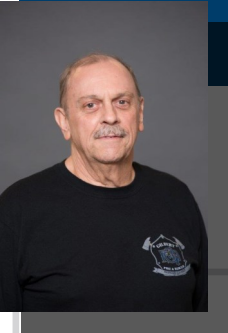
The phrase “Watch your six” refers to “protecting yourself.”. If you were standing on a clock face looking at the 12, the 6 would be directly behind you—in a position you couldn’t see peripherally.

For those who deal with high stress situations, it’s especially important to protect themselves. These include police, first responders, military, and volunteers. To prevent the development of personal crises due to exposure to high stress situations, here are a few tips provided by Jonathan Parker, a guest speaker for Gilbert’s first responders:

1. Take time to rest. After just a few long shifts without sufficient rest, most humans function about as well as someone who is “under the influence.”
2. Commit to a healthy diet. Just like vehicles, we need proper fuel in order to function well.
3. Pursue a change of scenery. Break patterns and habits. Get out in nature.
4. Renew your sense of calling and purpose. Perhaps mentor someone else. Help them with your experience.
5. Know in your heart that evil will not prevail. There are so many good people out there.
6. Remember that you are not alone. You are part of a team that will support you.

~Written by Dianna Erickson

# Volunteer Spot-



## Jeffrey Taylor

Jeffrey Taylor grew up in Howe, Indiana-two miles from the Michigan border and about 30 miles from Ohio. He has been involved with fire departments most of his career. He was first a volunteer fire fighter in the suburban area of Indianapolis. He then worked as a dispatcher for Marion County Rural Fire department for eight years. Later, he worked as the Deputy Director of Communications with the Indianapolis Fire Department.

Upon retirement, Jeff moved to Arizona. He's lived in Gilbert for two years. Originally, joining GFRD volunteers to play in the pipe band, he later became interested in the Community Assistance program completing his training last summer.

Jeff's greatest challenge in life was beating cancer twice. After 10 years of being cancer free, he was no longer considered in danger of a relapse.

Career success is the answer when Jeff is asked about his greatest accomplishment. He feels fortunate to have been shown great respect and received several awards during his 39 years working fire/EMS communications.

Jeff is passionate about playing his bagpipes, supporting the Chicago Cubs, and working to improve his golf game.

When not volunteering, Jeff's time is spent doing things with his wife, who is retired from the firefighters credit union in Indianapolis... and is currently in training for CERT. He also works part time for a delivery company in Chandler, and plays bagpipes for various fire department events with both the Gilbert Fire Pipe Band and the Arizona Fire Service Pipe Band.

-Written By: Judy Slack

# Applause!

Com251 did awesome, all flyers are up and I just wanted to say thanks again!

~FF Justin Sours



# Community Division Update

Over the past two years, I have had the privilege to meet many of you. I am impressed with your dedication, compassion and unwavering commitment to those we serve within our community. As a volunteer, you have added value to this community and department at every level. My wife, Jennifer, and I have decided that it's time for me to go back into operations. On June 18th, I will report to Battalion 251 on "A" shift. Chief Mark Justus will be replacing me, and I am excited to see my peer serve the Town of Gilbert in this position.

About a year ago, our family went through a life changing event. Jen and I just wanted to say thank you to all of you volunteers that supported us in our darkest time. Our whole family is now in a good spot. We are thankful for the outcome and take life one day at a time while enjoying our family every step of the way.

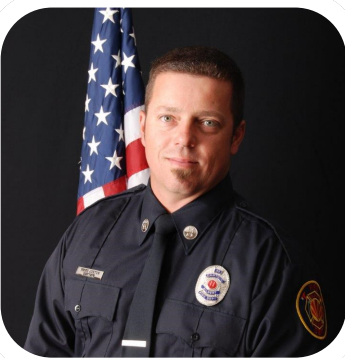
Josh Ehrman,  
Community Division Chief



# Community Division Update

With the seasons of our careers come the opportunities to grow and learn. I am excited to learn in my new opportunity as a team member of the community division. Over the course of my career I have been involved in this division from the very beginning of this journey. It started with our explorers that are now known as the East Valley regional Cadet program dedicated to developing the youth of our community. I have also been involved with this division over the years with the opportunity to teach and develop our volunteer membership. These interactions have allowed me to get to know and appreciate our volunteers.

In just a short time in preparing for this transition I have learned a great deal as to what this team does to support the organization and the Gilbert Fire and Rescue Department's mission. I challenge each of you to become involved with all the opportunities to give back to our community. Please evaluate your strengths and look for that area you can serve as the volunteer needs arise.



I am constantly impressed with the impact our organization makes for our citizens. I am excited to help with this plan in the future and look forward to how the Community Division can aid in the operations of our organization. If you know me you have likely experienced a little of my sarcasm. Here is a little bit. Look for a Facebook post or a tweet soon from the community division. (I'm in the process of learning how to do both as you read this!) ~Battalion Chief Mark Justus

# Ham Radio

Written By: Ed Taggard

Ham Radio is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics and communication together. People use ham radio to talk across town, around the world, or even into space, all without the need of the Internet or cell phones. It's fun, social, educational, and can be a lifeline during times of need.

For me, it all started when I heard about free weather spotter training offered by the National Weather Service. I went, was very intrigued and got my weather spotter ID. I thought being able to observe weather phenomena and report it directly to the National Weather Service was very interesting. Then I heard there were like-minded folks who could talk about current happenings including weather reports on ham radio, in real time. I wanted in.

I began to study for the ham radio technician exam. This is the entry level exam needed to become a licensed ham radio operator. I just had to pass a 35-question multiple choice test. No longer is there the requirement to know Morse code. The FCC dropped the Morse code requirement in 2007. My study paid off as I pass my first exam and I had my ticket (ham term for the license). I became very active with Skywarn and over the years became a net controller. This position is responsible for relaying timely spotter reports from the community directly to the meteorologists at the National Weather Service. These reports supply the ground truth that the meteorologist use to support, issue or cancel severe weather warnings.

One of the aspects of ham radio I find personally rewarding is giving back to our community via the public service forum. Gilbert's

CERT ham team is one way I do that. Gilbert CERT has worked with Phoenix and Tempe CERT supporting the Rock N Roll marathon which ran through Phoenix and Tempe. This event allows the CERT ham teams to network and work together strengthening inter-departmental relationships. This becomes very valuable during deployments. It is always easier working alongside volunteers you know and have worked with before. The CERT



*Ken Waters N4PBY, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist; Joe Bakas KE7WHE and Ed Taggard K7EDT (not pictured) working ham radio during Skywarn Appreciation*



*Ed Taggard K7EDT (R) along with two Tempe CERT volunteers Dawn Hermanson KF7WCF (C) and Nate Plamondon KD7SUL (L) supporting the Rock N Roll*



# Ham Radio

Many of my fellow Gilbert CERT hams also volunteer to support other events in the East Valley like the Lost Dutchman Marathon, El Tour de Mesa and Xterra running events to name a few.

The Lost Dutchman marathon in Apache Junction is a major event that is, among other things, a pre-qualifier for the Boston Marathon. Hams support the full and half marathon components using our safety and communication skills to keep a watchful eye over par-



*Keeping a watchful eye over the runners near mile-post 21 during the Lost Dutchman Marathon.*



*Some of the ham crew covering El Tour de Mesa. (L-R) Kevin KE7VIN, unknown, Ed K7EDT and Joe KE7WHE.*

El Tour de Mesa is a bicycling event for cyclists of all ages and abilities who ride the perimeter of Mesa and enjoy the beautiful scenery as they circle Red Mountain. Hams support this event with communications and safety observations for the 2,000 riders that participate. We have also worked events in our own backyard like the 12K's of Christmas in Gilbert, setting up posts at aid stations along the route. Mobile units also ride the course to relay any messages needed to keep the utmost safety, ready to relay reports to event officials or law enforcement to keep things running smoothly.

Ham radio is different from Citizens Band (CB), Family Radio Service (FRS), and the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), which only allow local communications using very limited modes and frequencies. Ham radio operators are allowed to use to every mode of communication: AM, FM, CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV, ATV, Packet, and a many others you've probably never heard of. We have privileges all across the radio spectrum, from shortwave to microwave. We can talk to other hams across the globe, from Antarctica to Greenland, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, maybe even on the International Space Station (ISS) all without breaking a single law.

You may say to yourself, "I have a cell phone, why would I need ham radio?" While it is true that cell phones work in most cases, I have personally been in situations where the cell signal was not available and therefore I could not make a call. This has happened as a result of wildfires bringing down the cell tower lines and the entire town was without cell coverage. I have also experienced this while driving in rural areas (SR177 between Superior and Kearny for example) where there was no cell signal. I was still able to use

# Ham Radio



*Working an Info table at a preparedness fair (L-R) LeDair KF7UBT stops by to say Hi to Gilbert CERT Ham*



*Gilbert CERT member Sonja Grosch is ready to answer questions about CERT.*

Ham radio does not rely on infrastructure and that what makes it so resilient. When devastating hurricanes took out all power and communications in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico last year, ham radio operators were back up and running in no time (some actually never went off the air) supplying vital communication from the affected communities to the world.

There are lots of free materials available online to help you study for and pass your test for the entry level technician license. All you need is a little electronics theory and FCC rules and regulation knowledge. Investing in about 10 hours of study should be enough to pass the tech exam. This gets you the privileges to talk on many different frequencies using the different modes. It is not difficult. Kids younger than 10 years old have tested and passed. If you're curious, please don't hesitate to talk to one of your fellow CERT team members on the ham team. We'd love to talk to you about Ham radio.

## Learning Labs

I recently enjoyed the first of several upcoming "Learning Labs" that are open to all Gilbert Fire and Rescue volunteers. This particular lab was presented by Assistant Chief Duggan and was on the proposed training center for the Town of Gilbert.

I had also attended a similar event with Gilbert Police volunteers so I had some knowledge of the training center. However, Chief Duggan approached the topic from a completely different angle that gave me more understanding and appreciation for the need of a training center in Gilbert. Chief Duggan's presentation encompassed the who, what, where and why's of this project, which is projected to be at Power/Pecos.

Now I'm looking forward to the next "Learning Lab" on preparing for a terrorist attack.

*~Written by Dianna Erickson*

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## June & July

### June 2018

|           |                                 |                                     |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| June 14th | First Aid                       | 6-9pm CERT, Fire Corps, VIPS Room 6 |
| June 19th | Collision Avoidance             | 6-8:30pm COM251 Skills Center       |
| June 19th | Crime Scene Preservation        | 6-9pm CERT, Fire Corps, Room 6      |
| June 21st | Learning Lab: Low Acuity Update | 5-6pm, Amphitheater                 |

### July 2018

|           |   |                                     |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| July 4th  | <u>Fire Administration Office Closed in honor of Independence Day</u> |                                     |
| July 21st | Annual Meeting<br>Amphitheater  | 9am -12pm CERT, Fire Corps          |
| July 25th | CPR/AED   | 6-9pm CERT, Fire Corps, VIPS Room 6 |

